



**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
October 6, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

**Present:** Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Tom Skjaret, Jahn Dyvik, Michelle Jerde, and Deirdre Kvale

*Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, the Long Lake City Council attended the meeting telephonically pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.021.*

**Staff Present:** City Administrator: Scott Weske (in person); and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller (in person)

**Absent:** None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS – LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES**

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

The City Council met in a work session prior to the regular meeting where the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District made a presentation regarding possible water quality improvements over the next five years that will involve Long Lake, Medina and Orono. The Council also discussed a change to the policy for sewer charges and direction was given to staff to send a letter to all residents about the potential change and announce the upcoming public hearing.

The Fire Department did a great job combatting a house fire in Orono on Sunday, which caused damage, but no injuries and even included getting the family dog out of the home safely.

It is election season and Mayor Miner encouraged people to vote either in person or using one of the other options of early or mail-in voting. More information is available on the City's website under 'Election Information'.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Jerde, seconded by Dyvik, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all by roll call. Motion carried.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve Minutes of September 15, 2020 City Council Meeting
- B. Receive Unofficial Draft Minutes of September 8, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-33 Accepting a Donation to the Long Lake Fire Department in the Amount of \$4,000.00 from the Northwest Tonka Lions Club
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-34 Authorizing the City Administrator and/or Mayor to Execute Amendment No. 1 to Agreement PR00001272, the Residential Recycling Grant Agreement with Hennepin County

Council member Dyvik noted that he had a few questions regarding item C, Vendor Claims and Payroll. He asked about the two lines that are TIF related that total about \$20,000 and asked if those are expenses that will be reimbursed to the City by Lifestyle Communities.

Administrator Weske explained that the item that is for \$11,000 for LHB has already been reimbursed, and that the work being done on the Ehlers side will also be reimbursed in full once the full TIF application is complete.

Council member Dyvik asked about the \$13,000 for turn-out gear boots which he assumed is for the Fire Department and questioned if those costs would be shared by Orono.

Weske affirmed that this was correct.

Council member Dyvik asked about the \$3,600 for Veterans Memorial flag pole lighting.

Weske responded that the existing flag pole lighting had been substandard and was starting to erode, and staff found it was more efficient to replace it rather than to try to fix it.

Council member Dyvik asked if the \$720 for water testing at Nelson Lakeside Park was related to the County beach water testing program for things like e-coli.

Weske replied that the County had just recently begun charging the City for the beach water testing program, though they informed cities in about 2015 that they would be beginning to charge cities for a share of beach testing expenses.

Council member Dyvik asked about the bill from the City Attorney's office for criminal fees for September.

Weske explained that those are the attorney fees for defending the City, at the court level, when there are criminal situations in the City.

Council member Dyvik asked about the \$8,500 for general engineering from WSB and questioned if any of that expense would be reimbursed.

Weske replied that the amount was the full bill for planning and engineering services from WSB. He reviewed the line items related to the total \$8,500 cost and confirmed that more than half of those costs would be reimbursed.

Council member Kvale noted that for the Attorney's fees, although it says on the check register that it was "criminal", it appears as though it is not criminal when she looks more closely at the summary. She asked about the reimbursement of these costs.

Weske clarified that of the full invoice, only \$833 was related to criminal services. He stated that the reimbursable costs run against the escrow accounts, such as the Landings at Long Lake subdivision.

Weske confirmed that he could provide Council members with escrow account information.

Council member Skjaret stated that he has served on the Council for many years and has seen annual donations from the Northwest Tonka Lions Club to the Fire Department. He noted that once again they are making a \$4,000 donation to the Fire Department and he expressed his appreciation to the Northwest Tonka Lions for their great support of both the Fire Department and the City.

*A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Dyvik, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Ayes: all by roll call. Motion carried.*

## **OPEN CORRESPONDENCE**

**John James, Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce** - Mr. James stated that the Orono Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce have met and are proposing a stage be built in Nelson Park.

Council member Kvale noted that this item is listed on the meeting agenda for later in the meeting.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Accept Donation of Dog Park Equipment to the City of Long Lake from Matthew Jandl of Boy Scout Troop #206**

Weske reported that Matthew Jandl had built several different items for use in the dog park area at Holbrook Park as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Jandl gave an overview of his Eagle Scout project and Weske displayed photos of the items that he made for the dog park area. He discussed some of the experiences and activities he has been involved in through Scouts and shared his future plans to join the National Guard while seeking an engineering degree.

Mayor Miner thanked Mr. Jandl for his commitment to the community and to the state and nation as part of the next chapter of his life.

The Council discussed rules for dog park use, liability coverage and other items related to its use.

The Council expressed their appreciation to Mr. Jandl.

*A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Jerde, to adopt Resolution No. 2020-32 accepting a donation to the City of Long Lake from Matthew Jandl of Boy Scout Troop 206 of two dog walks, two tire jumps, two sets of weave poles, two dog waste stations, and two benches as construction performed to complete his Eagle Scout Project. Ayes: all by roll call. Motion carried.*

### **Update from Hennepin County Commissioner Jan Callison**

Hennepin County Commissioner Callison gave an update on statistics related to COVID-19 in Hennepin County, the Minneapolis civil unrest, and the County 2021 budget. She stated that the County has about 20% of the state's population, but there has been a disproportionate impact from COVID-19 in terms of hospitalizations, cases, and deaths within the County. She reviewed the disparities they have found based on race and age throughout the County. She noted that the City of Long Lake has about 1,800 people, had 17 confirmed cases, and less than five deaths related to COVID-19, which is similar to Tonka Bay. She reviewed some of the areas that the CARES funding had been allocated to throughout the County. She explained that the County moved aggressively to ensure that there was not a COVID outbreak in their homeless shelters which involved moving about 500 at risk elderly or ill people out of the shelters and into hotel spaces. She shared other ways the County is helping to provide housing stability for the homeless. She discussed some of the ways the CARES Act funding has been used to assist small businesses and noted that they have disbursed about \$42,500 in Long Lake. She displayed pictures of some of the damages that occurred in Minneapolis during the unrest that happened in May and commended the Sheriff's department for their work throughout these challenging times. She stated that they are currently estimating that there was about \$5,000,000 in damages, and they expect about \$3.6 million of that to be paid by insurance. She presented a brief overview of the 2021 County budget and noted that they approved

a maximum levy with a 0% increase which will require a \$40 million cut to their budget. She stated that they are expecting major unknowns in the budget related to COVID expenses which includes housing expenses such potentially acquiring hotel properties for the homeless population. She highlighted some of the important dates for the 2020 election.

Council member Kvale asked for a copy of the Commissioner's presentation.

Commissioner Callison indicated that it would be too large to e-mail in its current format but she would be happy to share it with the Council by other means.

Council member Skjaret thanked Commissioner Callison for her annual commitment to keeping the City up to date. He thanked her for her service to the County and her work on Hennepin healthcare while on the Board, and wished her well. He added that the County moved very quickly to be able to maintain services amidst the civil unrest and COVID-19.

### **Discuss Nelson Lakeside Park Event Stage Study**

Mayor Miner noted that the Council had received the packet information that included artists renderings of a proposed event stage project in Nelson Lakeside Park and welcomed Marty Schneider to complete the presentation to the Council.

Marty Schneider reported that there is truly a community effort to put an event stage in Nelson Lakeside Park. He explained that it is being led by the Orono Lions Club, Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, and the veteran's group from the VFW in Hamel. He noted that he is a Board member on the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce which is why he is involved. He recalled that there was a joint Park Board and Council work session on August 24, 2020 at the park to discuss the idea. He indicated that the proposal is to bring an event stage to Nelson Lakeside Park that is low impact and has a low presence, meaning it is less than 500 square feet, to be located in the eastern side of the park. He added that the group has been in communication with Maple Plain regarding their stage in their Veteran's Park. He stated that for the event stage, they would like to tie in with the City's design guidelines, tie in with the overall vision for the rest of the park system throughout the City, in order for the stage to be something that is very natural and low maintenance. He commented that the goal is for the stage to be able to be used by a broad group of people for various events, such as the school district, fun runs, fishing contests, and Buckhorn Days. He stated that they also envision it serving as a way to bring in other events such as theater in the park or outdoor yoga. He added that they want to make sure it is not just seen as a music stage, but an event stage. He reviewed some of the discussion and concerns that were raised at the August 24, 2020 meeting.

Council member Skjaret asked if the MnDNR had veto power or any input about the use of this space.

Mr. Schneider indicated that this was discussed at the August 24, 2020 meeting and it was determined that the MnDNR does not have control over this parcel, but there may be some MCWD permitting necessary. He explained that process and procedure are very important to them as a group. He stated that they would like to have this as a small, standalone venue that can be used without bringing any more traffic towards parts of the park with other amenities. He added that they are committed to going through the process with the Planning Commission, Park Board and Design Review.

Council member Dyvik voiced his support for the idea and noted that a resident had come to him with a concern about sound amplification and loud concerts. He stated that he assumes the City has noise ordinances in place to address those types of concerns so the City will be able to have some control over the events.

Weske explained the permitting process and how this gives the Council flexibility and control to ensure there aren't problems.

John James, Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce President, stated that there had been discussion about raising private funding, but they are also investigating whether there may be any grant money that could be available for this project.

Mr. Schneider stated that there are a pretty broad range of grant opportunities that may be available for public spaces and they feel very confident that there may be other resources to help with funding. He affirmed that their goal is to try to get some conceptual approval from the Council so they can begin the process and start reaching out to the other entities that could assist with funding. He provided an overview of the proposed design which would direct the sound acoustically in the park, creating kind of a protected space for sound. He recommended that the Council take a look at the event stage in Maple Plain because the scope is similar to what they are considering for Nelson Lakeside Park.

Council member Kvale stated that she likes the concept of the stage, feels it would enhance the park, and asked if the Council was supposed to take some sort of formal action.

Weske suggested that if the Council was in support of exploring this event stage that direction be given to staff to work with the Planning Consultant to plan out the process and to work with the group in order to ascertain the best approach to move this forward.

There was a consensus of the Council to direct staff to work with Mr. Schneider to start the process of moving the project for an event stage at Nelson Lakeside Park forward.

Mr. Schneider stated that he had one unrelated comment that he would like to make that he attempted to make during Open Correspondence but had technical difficulties. He noted that he frequently travels to Medina and just about everyday he sees someone from Public Works tending the enormous flower baskets which is a wonderful sight. He commented that the view of what downtown is becoming is a nice attraction.

Mr. James agreed with Mr. Schneider's comments and indicated he thinks the flowers are looking fantastic.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Hanging Flower Baskets** - Council member Dyvik noted that he had been looking at a Facebook Group that is called *Orono Maple Plain Long Lake* and there is a thread on the page about the gorgeous flowers in the City this year. He thanked Public Works Director Diercks for his and his staff's efforts to keep them so beautiful.

**Event State Process** - Council member Jerde asked if the Council all agreed on the event stage why it couldn't just be moved forward. Weske explained that there are some details and variables that will need to be considered before it can officially be moved forward.

**Glenmoor Lane Parking Issue** - Mayor Miner asked when the Glenmoor Lane topic will be on the agenda. Weske stated that it will most likely be after the election because staff time is pretty tight right now. He explained that City Clerk Moeller will update the Council when she has more information.

**Early Absentee Voting Update** - City Clerk Moeller updated the Council on in-person early voting activity and noted that staff has been busy. She stated that City Hall is open by appointment for this but she has been receiving a lot of phone calls from people who have received a ballot by mail but rather than returning it by mail, think they have to request a new ballot. She explained that they do not need to do that and noted that there is a dropbox out in front of the building that is much larger and can accommodate ballot returns Monday through Friday before 3:30 pm daily. She indicated that this offers early absentee voters a sort of hybrid approach to voting by receiving their ballot in the mail but dropping it off in person, and noted that staff checks the dropbox frequently each day. She explained the process of transmitting returned voted ballots to the Hennepin County Elections office via secure courier to ensure that every ballot sent is the exact number received. She encouraged anyone interested in early voting to contact her sooner rather than later because appointments have been busy, and appointment availability will become more difficult closer to election day.

Mayor Miner stated that he saw a comment posted on the local Next Door online group earlier today that the commenter had set up an appointment to come in and complete in-person early voting, and shared that staff was very helpful and encouraged others to vote in this manner.

Moeller noted that there will be more information on voting included in the newsletter that will be going out with the utility bills.

**ADJOURN**

*Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned by general consent at 7:47 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske  
City Administrator